

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY

Voluntary - Public

**Date:** 11/18/2009

**GAIN Report Number:** CE9004

## Sri Lanka

**Post:** New Delhi

### Sri Lanka Notifies Food Regulations (Adoption of Standards) to WTO

#### Report Categories:

WTO Notifications

#### Approved By:

Thom Wright

#### Prepared By:

Adrian Mendis

#### Report Highlights:

The Ministry of Health issued a regulation which implements mandatory standards for 158 food items on September 1, 2009. These regulations include a ban on the use of artificial flavors in beverages as well the mandatory addition of sodium bicarbonate to soda water. The deadline for comments is December 15, 2009.

#### General Information:

**Introduction:** This report provides a brief overview of the Food (Adoption of Standards) Regulation issued by the Ministry of Health and notified to the WTO on Oct 16, 2009 (**G/SPS/N/LKA/18**).

**Disclaimer:** This summary is based on an initial review of the subject announcement and therefore should not, under any circumstances, be viewed as a definitive reading of the regulation in question, or of its implications for U.S. agricultural exports to Sri Lanka.

**Type of Regulation:** Mandatory adoption of Sri Lankan Standards

**Comments/suggestions should be addressed to:**

Deputy Director General  
Public Health Services I  
Ministry of Healthcare and Nutrition  
"Suwasiripaya"  
No.385, Rev. Baddegama Wimalawansa Thero Mawatha,  
Colombo – 10, Sri Lanka  
Tel: +(94-11) 267 4682  
Fax: +(94-11) 269 0035  
E-mail: [codexlanka@health.gov.lk](mailto:codexlanka@health.gov.lk)  
[dtcs@health.gov.lk](mailto:dtcs@health.gov.lk)

**Important Dates:**

- **Notification to the WTO:** October 16, 2009
- **Regulation to become Effective:** September 01, 2009
- **Comment deadline:** December 15, 2009

**Products Affected:** Food and beverage items.

**Agency in Charge:** Food Control Unit, Ministry of Health.

**Notified Text:** See attached

**Note:** Sri Lanka's proposed regulation establishes mandatory standards for 158 food products. The regulation was notified on October 16, 2009, and the comment deadline is December 15, 2009. Of the draft standards, the following are noted:

Sri Lankan Standard number 729, section 5.3.2 on "Specification for Ready-to-Serve (RTS) fruit drinks" only permits the addition of natural flavors to RTS fruit drinks, thus banning artificial flavors. An exception is made for mango flavored drinks.

Sri Lankan Standard number 183, "Specification for Carbonated Beverages," specifies a mandatory minimum level of sodium bicarbonate in carbonated beverages in section 5.4, and a minimum carbonation level in section 5.7.